

Industrial Relations

clearer than the rather inadequate explanations the minister has put on the record already, which are not in conformity with the principles that are involved and certainly do not explain the differences between Ontario, let us say, on Saturday and Ontario on Monday.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, the resolution itself tells us that this could not possibly be the explanation of these differences because we see, coming to the part having to do with the provinces as a whole, that the proposed change is to alter the definition of standard individual income tax so that in any agreement these words shall be construed as if the words "10 per cent" were replaced by the words "13 per cent". That makes it perfectly clear, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Rea): Order. It being five o'clock it is my duty to leave the chair pursuant to standing order 15(3) in order to allow the house to proceed to the consideration of private and public bills.

Progress reported.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**PROVISION OF MINIMUM RATE OF WAGES
FOR EMPLOYEES**

The house resumed, from Thursday, November 28, 1957, consideration of the motion of Mr. Knowles for the second reading of Bill No. 4, to provide for minimum wages for employees.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I must inform the house that if the hon. member speaks now he will close the debate. The hon. member for Peel.

Mr. John Pallett (Peel): Mr. Speaker, on the last day this bill was before the house I think I was speaking on it, and at that time I had referred to certain matters in the bill that could have been improved with proper examination. I had said there was legislation in effect in the provinces that was more explicit in its terms and in determining how the legislation should be implemented.

Since that time there has been passed in the province of Manitoba legislation of a similar type that also carries forward much the same principle found in other provincial legislation, in that it sets up a board to deal with certain areas of employment. I believe this act of the Manitoba legislature supports much of the argument I was putting forward when we were last considering this measure.

I feel it is rather significant that not many days ago in this house the hon. member for Essex East turned to the hon. member for

[Mr. Marler.]

Winnipeg North Centre and said, "If you would look at the resolution we passed at our convention you would see that you could obtain everything you wish if you followed the principles adopted at the Liberal convention." It was an interesting comment, and I would suggest that perhaps it shows that the Liberal party have become C.C.F.'ers in a hurry. I think perhaps if the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre were to follow this suggestion made by the hon. member for Essex East he might look at this Liberal legislation passed in Manitoba.

He might not agree with the suggestion made to him, but actually there is not too much difference between the two parties who now sit opposite us in this house. I doubt if there is any difference between them at all. I think perhaps the suggestion of the hon. member for Essex East to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has more in it than at that time met the eye.

The reference to the Manitoba legislation I have mentioned is found in the *Labour Gazette*, page 1480. The article sets out the legislation very well, and without commenting on the particulars of the legislation I suggest to the hon. member who has introduced this bill that he read it, and he will see that it is another example where a provincial legislature has seen fit to follow principles other than those he enunciated. I feel there is some merit in following the principles established by the provinces in so far as labour legislation is concerned, that is in setting up boards rather than trying to legislate to take care of the whole field of labour relations.

I believe this procedure would overcome the constitutional difficulty that was encountered by a Conservative government in 1935 when they attempted to alleviate certain labour conditions facing the country at that time. The people who were in opposition at that time, rather than attacking the measure before the house, chose to attack in another manner, that is by taking it before the courts. This measure along with others was ruled ultra vires. This method of criticism was not unlike the procedure they now follow. They seem to prefer to do things in the unusual way rather than the usual. In any event they were successful at that time, and they prevented the people of this country from benefiting from the far-seeing legislation then introduced. This was the record of the Liberal party, and it has now taken the C.C.F. party 22 years to catch up with legislation introduced by the Conservatives 22 years ago.

It has been suggested that the form in which this legislation is could overcome the constitutional difficulty merely because it is